

narrower, a hundred feet or so long, ten or twelve feet in diameter, and about the same height. It was possible that other passages branched off from it and formed a kind of labyrinth inside the massive cliff. Captain Gould wondered whether one of these branches might not perhaps lead, if not to the top of the cliff, at any rate beyond the bluff or the bastion.

When Captain Gould urged this point again John Block replied:

" It certainly is possible. Who knows whether we shan't reach the top through the inside, although we couldn't do so outside ? "

When they had gone some fifty feet through this passage, which gradually got narrower, Captain Gould, the boatswain, and Fritz, came to a wall of rock before which they were obliged to stop.

John Block passed the light all over its surface from the ground to the vault, but found only narrow fissures into which the hand could not be put. So there was no more hope of penetrating further through the solid mass.

Nor did the side walls of the passage disclose any aperture. This second excavation beyond the first cave was the sole discovery resulting from the incident.

" Well," said Captain Gould, "it's not
by this
way that we shall get through the
cEff,"

** Nor .over it," added the boatswain.